CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1228*
28 October 1993

Original: ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 22 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE PRESS RELEASE OF THE PRESS-CENTRE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE DATED 24 SEPTEMBER 1993

I have the honour to forward to you the attached press release of the Press-Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine dated 24 September 1993.

I would be most grateful if, in accordance with established procedure, this press release could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and circulated to all delegations both member States and non-member States participating in the work of the Conference.

(Signed) OLEXANDR SLIPCHENKO
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Ukraine

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

GE.93-62691 (E)

PRESS RELEASE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation issued the press release on the occasion of the denunciation of the "Protocol on the withdrawal to the Russian Federation of all nuclear warheads ... deployed in Ukraine" signed on 3 September this year in Crimea, referring to the fact that the photocopy of this document recently published in the newspaper "Kievskiye vedomosti" bore well noticeable corrections made by hand, which allegedly changed completely the content of the agreement.

In connection with the above-mentioned the Press-Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is authorized to state the following.

Contrary to the usual diplomatic practice, members of the Russian delegation presented to the Prime Ministers of Ukraine and Russia for signing the version of the text differing from the one discussed and agreed upon by the experts of the delegations.

Since the text presented for signing contained elements which did not correspond to the national interests of Ukraine, representatives of the Ukrainian side made the above-mentioned corrections in the presence and with agreement of the representatives of Russia. The Russian side did not make any objections or protests. Due to technical reasons the document was not retyped.

It is astonishing that the Press Release of the MFA of the Russian Federation maintains that the Russian side officially annulled this Protocol immediately, of which act the representatives of Ukraine were allegedly informed. This does not correspond to reality absolutely. It is not clear, why in this case the Russian side needed 14 days to make the statement on the denunciation of the Protocol and why the State, as influential as Russia, has chosen for this such an unusual method in diplomatic practice as the press release.

The Ukrainian side regards the mentioned press release as lacking objectivity, distorting real events and amounting only to an awkward attempt of unfounded discredit of one of the members of the Ukrainian delegation.

PRESS-CENTRE OF THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE

24 SEPTEMBER 1993